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ABSTRACT

This discussion of the difficulties Poland faces in acquiring materials for its libraries' collections centers on four aspects: (1) historical background, (2) publishing output versus acquisition of collections, (3) decentralization of acquisition as the basis for distribution of collection in Poland, and (4) centralization of information about collections. The paper stresses the importance of a national library in solving acquisition problems. (FM)

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The Problems of Acquisition of Library Collections in Poland

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The problems of acquisition of library collections in Poland.

1. Historical aspect

Many elements of political, cultural, educational and economic nature lie at the background of organizational forms of acquiring library collections in Poland. They shaped the directions of activity in the past and do it at present times. The ways of acquisition of library collections and their content reflect the cultural history of the nation and its complicated political past. In contemporary times the principles of acquiring collections are determined by the socio-economic development of the society.

The lack of state independence till 1918 was a direct reason for impossibility of establishing a national library and therefore in the 19th century there were many attempts to organize at least scientific libraries open to the public. Their collections had a regional character. The oldest one of this type in Poland is Edward Raczyński Municipal Library founded in 1829. It was a typical, for that time, foundational library. It was organized on the basis of a private collection and/of manuscripts and older prints coming from the monastery libraries. This particular library was given the right /due to the king's of Prussia decission/ to receive a legal deposit from the territory of the Grand Duchy of Poznań. After the Second World War Raszyński's Library enlarged its functions. It became the Municipal Public Library of the City of Poznań. It takes care of a network of public libraries in the city, but still it has a regional character. The similar one was the history of the M. Kopernik Municipal Library in Toruń, H. Łopaciński Municipal Library in Lublin, the Ossoliński National Foundation Library in Lwów and of many others, although they had been established in

different periods.

There appeared another tendency apart form the establishment of regional libraries in which collections embracing first of all national publishing output in Polish and secondly foreign literature, were gathered. It was a tendency leading towards foundation of central libraries of universal and specialistic character. It became more explicit after regaining independence in 1918, together with setting up new universities also of specialistic type, scientific type, scientific institutions and central Goovernment offices. The establishment of such specialistic central libraries as: the Parliament Library /1919/, the Central Military Library /1919/, the Main Statistic Office Library /1918/, the Silesian Library in Katowice /1922/ had broken tradition of libraries holding a character of universal libraries of a university type.

The fact of foundation of the National Library in 1928, together with the aim of collecting the whole national publishing output the old as well as a new one, decided about the concentration of scientific library collections in Warsaw. The spatial centralization of this collection deepened after the Second world War.

A considerable development of higher education, the establishment of many scientific institutions and also localization of the centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences together with part of its research institutions in Warsaw /the Polish Academy of Sciences had its seat in Cracow in the interwar period / had a great influence on it. In studies on this problem it has been stated that 48 % of all university teachers and scientific workers attached to universities is concentrated in Warsaw.

The capital also cumulated 75 % of all country staff of independent research workers, 65 % of the staff project bureaus and 55 %

of workers of scientific- research institutes. Fifty two institutions of the Polish Academy of Sciences out of seventy one had their seats in Warsaw. Furthemore it is still estimated that above 50 % of all scientific library collections is situated in Warsaw. It is also due to the fact that among twelve scientific libraries, which get complete legal deposit of national publishing output, three are situated in Warsaw.

In Warsaw libraries the majority of foreign literature, coming to the country, is concentrated. The activities of the National Library and the libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences play and important role in this process. Apart from Warsaw which performs functions or a country scientific and cultural centre, quite a big part of the national collection is situatedin such centres as: Cracow, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk, Katowice, Szczecin, Lublin.

2. Publishing output versus acquisition of collections

The main part of collections of Polish libraries is national publishing output, that is books and periodicals in their traditional form. Foreign publications acquired most often in the form of books and periodicals constitute quite a big proportion of scientific libraries' collections. The inner structure of scientific libraries collections, similarly to other countries, differs according to the profile of a library. In the libraries of universal character books and periodicals ara vast majority of collections, whereas libraries with a narrow specialization collect non-book materials mainly. The role of those materials is still growing and a great attention is paid to their possibly quick acquisition - /often these are secondary documents xero-copies, microfilms, microfishes/. The problem of acquisition of foreigh literature becomes

more and more difficult. Nowadays the world publishing output is concentrated in several well developed countries. The remaining countries must spend big sums of money on purchase of foreign literature indispensable for continuation of scientific research and for didactic purposes. The exchange of publications starts playing less and less important role.

The difficulties concerning acquisition of foreign literature, which is an imoportant part of scientific libraries' collections, made a good start for works on specification of libraries' specialization. The problem will be discussed in a further part of the paper /chapter 4/.

A model of collection of a public library had been settled on the basis of results of ingury of the institute of Books and Reading, which works attached to the National Library. Public libraries collect mainly national literature. According to the accepted norm 60 to 70 % of the collection is fiction for children, youths and grownups. The remaining part of it is non-fictional writing, mainly popular-scientific literature, abstracts of knowledge, books of reference.

Poland is one of the countries with a dinamically developing publishing activity. And yet the interest in books is much bigger than the publishing possibilities.

In comparison with the interwar period the number of titles doubled and the size of editions trippled. Not only quantitative but also qualitative changes in the structure of scientific publications can be observed. Before the Second World War titles from the fields of humanities dominated in scientific book production. This domination reflected the economic structure of the country, and the structure of education, particularly in higher schools. The changes in botn fields, which took place in postwar Peoples'

Poland found their reflection in publishing policy.
Nowadays, in comparison with other countries, the non-fictional literature has one of the most important places in the structure of publishing output in Poland. Literature dealing with the problems of realization of economic programmes and with technical progress is preferred. In 1977 among 12 512 of issued titles scientific and professional literature constituted 58 % of the whole number /without textbooks and popular-scientific literature/.
Fiction /exoluding books for children and youngsters/ consituted 8,7 % of the whole production only. Technical literature /witnout agriculture/ was highly above it and costituted 20,3 % of all titles published.

3. Decentralization of acquisition as the basis for distrubution of collection in Poland.

In 1974 a special commission was set up in Poland to work out the programme of SINTO. The representatives of information centres, libraries and state archives took part in this work. Participation of such representatives enabled to formulate the main idea of SINTO, which is - to integrate the activities of the above mentioned institutions. Programme of SINTO covers: 1. completion of primary documents collections, 2. preparation of information and of secondary documents, 3. availablility and distribution of imformation and of secondary and primary documents. According to the principles of the system, every user should, in the place he reaches, /inte oentre, public or school library, voivodship archives/ get the answer to the three directly interrelated questions: Is there a document concerning his subject of interest?
Where is the document placed? Is it possible to get the original

of it or a copy? SINTO idea leads to creation of situation in which the requirements of the user will be met, independently of the formal form of a document, field it concerns and the place of storage of a source document.

SINTO system, in which participation of libraries of all types is stressed, is very close to the intentions of NATIS programme. Apart form the future organizational shape of the information system, the idea of including in it and making use of library information gathered in collections in the past and at present time seems to be unquestionable.

Equalization of disproportions in geographical layout of library collections must consider on one hand the needs of the newly establishing scientific centres and on the other the economic consequences of acquisition of foreign literature. The attempts made in Poland in the nineteen seventies went in two directions: the first one concerned the plan of specialization of libraries and fixing central scientific libraries. These works constituted one of the steps of realization of SINTO system. They were led by CINTE in cooperation with librarians. Tha main goal of all these undertakings was 1. to settle the area of acquisition of collections by scientific libraries, statement about storage of documents together with obligation of working them out, 2. to form the right shape of the import of foreign publications. The project of specialization of collections has a complex character.
It takes into account all fields of knowledge and of national economy. The basic criteria for the plan of specialization of collections of library materials are: field of knowledge, technique or other practical type of activity and the type of library materials.

The plan of specialization of collections is being realized at the moment. In 1979 an instruction appeared mentioning central scientific libraries together with defining their profile of acquiring library materials. Seventeen such central libraries have been set up, among them also the National Library, which apart from its basic functions is going to specialize in collecting literature from the field of scientific information, study of book, library science and scientific organization of keeping of archives.

A network of special libraries cooperating with central libraries has been planned. The aim of acquiring the basic literature from chosen fields of knowledge, will be realized by groups of libraries coordinated by central libraries.

All assigned libraries of narrow specialization cooperating with them are not new institutions. While preparing specialization plan, a historically shaped collections were taken into account, among them there were such big special libraries as: the main Medical Library, Central Agricultural Library, Parliament Library and also collections of libraries of higher schools, institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and other scientific and project bureaus

One of the main reasons for creation of a network of specialistic libraries is - as already mentioned - an economic one. The role of the fact that the research workers have publications from their field of knowledge at their disposal is appreciated.

The application of the plan is rather elastic. It will probably cause appearance of several copies of the same title /mainly periodicals/ but it seems to be more advantageous than the temporary advantages which could be reached through the cuttings in subscribtion of the repeating titles.

A little bit different activity, but also connected with NIKO system was taken up by the National Library together with the Jagiellonian Library and the Ossoliński National Foundation Library in Wrocław in 1977. It had been the programme of complex acquisition and preservation of set of published and manuscript documents which had been written in Poland throughout the history and of those which had been created abroad but were formally and in content connected with our country and its history. The programme, which had been named National Collection, aims at taking conservative, methodological and registration care of all scattered Polish documents kept in libraries and particularly of library documents /manuscripts and prints/, iconography, cartography, printed and recorded music, sound documents, secondary documents etc.

In a further perspective it is planned to unify methods of working out documents, which will make it possible to put information about them to the computer memory.

4. Centralization of information about collections.

The attempts, taken in order to define specialization of libraries, designation of central scientific libraries and also works coming out of the National Collection programme, do not lead towards centralization of system of acquisition of library collections.

They rather aim at regulation and reveal of the old materials which can be found in the collection of a library. These activities are necessary and useful, as the collections of scientific libraries are used not only by scientific workers, but also by thousands of specialists and students from all over the country.

The National Library's experience in this matter seems to be a good example of it. Its national and foreign collection is used, through the mediation of public libraries, by the representatives of various professions, often from the country and small towns. There can be observed an intensification of this process. It is strictly connected with the development of higher education and of all types of qualification courses. There exists quite a characteristic phenomenon, namely-the smaller public library the more often books ordered, within the frame of interlibrary lending system, in the best known and the biggest libraries in the country. It is difficult to foresee whether and to what extend defining specialization of libraries and designating central scientific libraries is able to influence the proper use of library collection.

Especially as the public opinion indicates a visible concentration of interests around certain parts of collections and at the same time ignoration of others canbe observed. It concerns especially such kind of literature as text-books, monographs, encyclopedias, all types of publications which form a stem of reading in a given field of knowledge. Therefore the policy of acquisition of library collections, particularly in the libraries of university type, is strictly connected with didactic process rather than with the needs of scientific circles.

In Poland, similarly to other countries, there is a deepening conflict between the needs of various circles of library readers. It happens most often in scientific libraries of university type. It refers mainly to the interlibrary lending, which is the form public libraries wish to use most often.

The establishment of central country lending division, following the example of the British Library Lending Division, is impos-

sible, as it is very expensive. The problem had been mentioned in M. Line's paper: National interlending system, existing system and possible models, presented at the 44 Session of the Main Council of IFLA.

What is left is such way of acting which on one hand, respecting decentralization of acquisition of country collections and foreign literature, would be able to improve information about the place of materials and system of their accessibility. This way of acting is also expensive, but while taking into account the possibilities of concentration of works in Warsaw libraries - which cumulate tha majority of foreign literature, it seems to be more advantageous from the conomic point of view. Proposals presented in the programme of National Collection follow this conception.

The NC programme takes it for granted that - the documents cannot be transferred, they should be left with the collections already historically shaped. On the other hand works on registration of collections and their central catalogues will be developed. The National Library will continue central catalogues of ola prints central evidence of manuscript collections, microfilming of the most precious parts of collections of libraries in the whole country.

Besides it is planned to start works on retrospective bibliography of Polish periodicals /it would also function as a central catalogue of these periodicals/, on central evidence of iconographic documents, printed and recorded music and the most precious documents of social life. A retrospective bibliography of knowledge of book is planned to be worked out in a more detailed way. Similarly a guide of libraries participating in National Collections is planned to be published.

Central catalogues of books and periodicals recorded by the National Library for years play the most important role in the information about foreign publications in the libraries of our country. Worked out with the help of computer, they are the main source of information about the localization of foreign literature. In the future, after strengthening the system of specialistic libraries, the catalogues will be the basis for central specialistic catalogues.

The National Library, being a leading one, will be developing its reprographic services. It is necessary not only for the preservation of the most precious collections, but also for the programme of general availability of publications. The National Library feels responsible for both of these activities. One of the proofs for it is National Collection programme.

There is still one more problem which needs presentation. Decentralization of acquisition of collections, and a tendency to fill up libraries in voivodship towns and others, in which scientific workers and students concentrate, with scientific works cause a constant growth of role of regional catalogues. Such catalogues often prepared by the staff of local libraries make the use of works from a given territory easier and quicker.

We are quite aware of the fact that solution of the problem of acquisition of library collections in Poland /decentralization/ requires many activities to be undertaken. We have in mind activities which would create such system of information and availability as to make them have, by any reader, as quickly as possible.

Therefore we pay a great attention to information about the place of collections and to the effective lending. The National Library is to play an important role in this matter.

At the present moment we are keeping the most important central catalogues and we take the role of a national centre of lending. We will be able to develop and improve these functions after transferring to the new seat which is being built now. It will have the most modern equipment.